

# Exchange of Emails between Julian Brazier (then MP) and John Webster.

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After this exchange of emails, the MPs were not happy that the NRA had been entirely honest with them. For example John Webster say there was only one rent dispute at Bisley. Even if in the strict legal sense this is arguably true, all reading this will know that most of the tenants in Bisley coming up for renewal are very unhappy with the terms that have either been indicated to them or actually offered. In the case of the Surrey, they eventually settled when they had no further funds to fight any further actions or to continue to run up legal advice bills. As the MPs point out NLRC had been served with a section 25 notice. Webster dismisses this as routine, however as he full well knew, the NLRC did not agree the terms being suggested, and the case was only settled on the eve of a court hearing.

As you see below the MPs allege that Andrew Mercer attempted to mislead them. Further you can see that neither Webster nor Evans had seen affidavits from previous senior NRA members that they promised that the Artists club house would be renewed on essentially the same terms as before. These promises may have been verbal, but in the case of St Georges Lodge, letters have been issued with the authority of previous trustees, and yet these have not been honoured. The trustees excuse is that these terms are not commercial. ABCAT have asked to see the advice they have received to substantiate this, but nothing has been offered. The trustee seem to be relying on the advice of Richard Baillie, who is excluded by RICS and law for giving any such advice.

Finally, Webster make great issue with how hard Moss Mustafa has been to communicate with. This frankly is a very misleading representation of the facts.

## Email Content

Julian,

Thanks for this.

I am sorry to cause you puzzlement. As I said at our meeting, the issuance of a Section 25 notice is not evidence of a dispute. It is merely the normal mechanism to bring a lease to an end before a new lease is granted. Its issuance is standard operating procedure in these matters and is in fact demanded by our published Real Estate policy.

I will get in touch with Sam Betz directly with available dates next week.

Thanks again for your help in brokering this meeting.

Regards

John Webster

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 16, 2016, at 09:56, BRAZIER, Julian <julian.brazier.mp> wrote:

Dear John,

Thank you for your email. I am puzzled by your comments on the other clubs, as I understood that, for example, a Section 25 Notice was served by the NRA on the North London, which expires in early February. Nevertheless I am happy to broker a meeting here with Moss and continue to hold our letter to the Charity Commission. As this has dragged on, I suggest we try to meet next week.

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I am copying in Moss and Sam Betz in my office, as he is standing in for Grant for the next few months. If you provide details of your office, I suggest he sorts out a date with them and Moss,

Yours ever

Julian

**From:** John Webster [<mailto:JWebster@altimapartners.com>]

**Sent:** 15 November 2016 15:12

**To:** BRAZIER, Julian <[julian.brazier.mp](mailto:julian.brazier.mp)>

**Cc:** HOWARTH, Gerald <[Gerald.Howarth.MP](mailto:Gerald.Howarth.MP)>; LEWIS, Julian <[LEWISJM](mailto:LEWISJM)>; GRAY, James <[JamesGrayMPk](mailto:JamesGrayMPk)>; HOLLOWAY, Adam <[HOLLOWAYA](mailto:HOLLOWAYA)>; LORD, Jonathan <[jonathan.lord.mp](mailto:jonathan.lord.mp)>; GARNIER, Mark <[mark.garnier.mp](mailto:mark.garnier.mp)>; DAVIS, David <[david.davis.mp](mailto:david.davis.mp)>; HOLLOBONE, Philip <[philip.hollobone.mp](mailto:philip.hollobone.mp)>; ERROLL, Earl <[ERROLLM](mailto:ERROLLM)>; CHERRY, Grant <[cherrygb](mailto:cherrygb)>

**Subject:** Re: Artists Clubhouse

Dear Julian,

Thank you for this.

We are not currently in dispute with any clubs or clubhouse tenants other than Moss. The approach the Trustees are taking has been thoroughly aired and approved by the body of elected members, many of whom belong to clubs on camp. I am not sure therefore what wider way forward there is to be explored.

The situation before us is to see if the costs of legal proceedings with Moss can be avoided. That surely must be in the interests of both sides.

Kind Regards

John Webster

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 15, 2016, at 10:28, BRAZIER, Julian <[julian.brazier.mp](mailto:julian.brazier.mp)> wrote:

Dear John,

Thank you for your email. It is a pity that you don't wish to look at mediation or an independent look, as the Charity commission are pretty clear that charities should use this option before legal proceedings to prevent reputational damage and unnecessary cost.

I would be happy to defer our letter and arrange a meeting with Moss but, in fairness to the other clubs whose concerns my colleagues share, it should be to explore a wider way forward for all six of them

Yours ever

Julian

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**From:** John Webster [<mailto:JWebster@altimapartners.com>]

**Sent:** 14 November 2016 15:56

**To:** BRAZIER, Julian <[julian.brazier.mp](mailto:julian.brazier.mp)>

**Cc:** HOWARTH, Gerald <[Gerald.Howarth.MP](mailto:Gerald.Howarth.MP)>; LEWIS, Julian <LEWISJM>; GRAY, James <JamesGrayMP>; HOLLOWAY, Adam <HOLLOWAYA>; LORD, Jonathan <jonathan.lord.mp>; GARNIER, Mark <mark.garnier.mp>; DAVIS, David <david.davis.mp>; HOLLOBONE, Philip <philip.hollobone.mp>; ERROLL, Earl <ERROLLM>; CHERRY, Grant <cherrygb>

**Subject:** RE: Artists Clubhouse

Dear Julian,

Thank you for your email of November 7<sup>th</sup> and of earlier today. Apologies for not responding sooner but amongst other things, I have been visiting family in the US.

After careful consideration, the Trustees have decided not to pursue your suggestion of an independent review.

As trustees of the Charity, we are ultimately responsible for its management. We have taken independent professional advice on this matter, and have been careful to ground our approach in the objects of the Charity, and to comply with charity law and the rules of the Charity.

All we are seeking to do in the current process is to treat Moss Mustafa as tenant of the Artists Rifles Clubhouse in the same manner as any other tenant in a similar position. In this, the trustees are operating in accordance i) with the requirement of our Trustees Code of Conduct not to favour any one sectional interest; and ii) with a published policy that enjoys the majority support of the elected group of members, which under our Royal Charter represents the full breadth of our membership.

We have gone to considerable lengths in our efforts to engage with Mr. Mustafa on this issue in the past. This has proven difficult, expensive and unproductive. Nevertheless, in the spirit of compromise which underlies this exchange, I would like to meet with you and Mr. Mustafa to see if such a compromise can be reached. Your help in putting together such a meeting within the next 10 days would be much appreciated.

Yours Sincerely,

John Webster

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**From:** BRAZIER, Julian [mailto:julian.brazier.mp]  
**Sent:** 07 November 2016 11:05  
**To:** John Webster <[JWebster@altimapartners.com](mailto:JWebster@altimapartners.com)>  
**Cc:** HOWARTH, Gerald <Gerald.Howarth.MP>; LEWIS, Julian <LEWISJM@>; GRAY, James <JamesGrayMP>; HOLLOWAY, Adam <HOLLOWAYA>; LORD, Jonathan <jonathan.lord.mp>; GARNIER, Mark <mark.garnier.mp>; DAVIS, David <david.davis.mp>; HOLLOBONE, Philip <philip.hollobone.mp>; ERROLL, Earl <ERROLLM>; 'Moss Mustafa' <[moss@artistsrifles.com](mailto:moss@artistsrifles.com)>; CHERRY, Grant <cherrygb>  
**Subject:** RE: Artists Clubhouse

Dear John,

Following my last, one additional suggestion which may be helpful. If you have trouble finding an independent figure from the shooting world who is acceptable to Moss and yourself, the government's website which provides guidance on disagreements and disputes in charities recommends using a mediator registered by the Civil Mediation Council from the Ministry of Justice. The website link is: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/disagreements-and-disputes-in-charities>

Yours ever

Julian

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**From:** BRAZIER, Julian  
**Sent:** 02 November 2016 12:52  
**To:** John Webster <[JWebster@altimapartners.com](mailto:JWebster@altimapartners.com)>  
**Cc:** HOWARTH, Gerald <Gerald.Howarth.MP>; LEWIS, Julian <LEWISJM>; GRAY, James <JamesGrayMP>; HOLLOWAY, Adam <HOLLOWAYA>; LORD, Jonathan <jonathan.lord.mp>; GARNIER, Mark <mark.garnier.mp>; DAVIS, David <david.davis.mp>; HOLLOBONE, Philip <philip.hollobone.mp>; ERROLL, Earl <ERROLLM>; 'Moss Mustafa' <[moss@artistsrifles.com](mailto:moss@artistsrifles.com)>; CHERRY, Grant <cherrygb>  
**Subject:** RE: Artists Clubhouse

Dear John,

Thank you for your reply and for being willing to consider a pause in the (expensive) legal proceedings and a review. I have spoken to Moss as you asked and have copied him in above. What I suggest and would be acceptable to Moss, while this pause is in place, is that you find a respected figure from the shooting community, accepted by both sides as independent of your immediate team, to collect information from all sides, review what has happened over the six or seven clubs concerned in recent years, what the policy was, when it changed and how far the change was reasonable under the circumstances. The exact circumstances of some of the clubs may be different but several of the growing number of colleagues now taking an interest in this have made it clear that they wish to see a fair outcome for each, so I am grateful for your suggestion that the review should cover all of them.

Such a figure may wish to take legal advice but- my only comment on your attachment - I cannot accept the suggestion that you are legally constrained in this matter to drive the maximum commercial bargain, given that the purposes of the clubs manifestly falls within your charitable aims. Your officers may disagree with all their predecessors' approach but you surely would not wish to argue they had all broken the Law.

Best wishes

Julian

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**From:** John Webster [<mailto:JWebster@altimapartners.com>]

**Sent:** 01 November 2016 16:47

**To:** BRAZIER, Julian <julian.brazier.mp>

**Cc:** HOWARTH, Gerald <Gerald.Howarth.MP>; LEWIS, Julian <LEWISJM>; GRAY, James <JamesGrayMP>; HOLLOWAY, Adam <HOLLOWAYA>; LORD, Jonathan <jonathan.lord.mp>; GARNIER, Mark <mark.garnier.mp>; CHERRY, Grant <cherrygb>

**Subject:** RE: Artists Clubhouse

Dear Julian,

Thank you for your call yesterday.

I mentioned that I needed to get a better understanding of what it is that you wanted me to do before I sent you my response to your email last Friday. I and my fellow Trustees spent a portion of the past weekend approving the text of that response. Albeit that this was completed before our conversation yesterday morning, I think out of respect to them that you and others should have sight of this as it sets out our position on certain issues, so I have attached it.

In our conversation we discussed next steps from here, and agreed that a possible way forward is to have a pause. You suggested that we should invite someone independent to review the issue, possibly including other affected Bisley club tenants as well as the

Artists Rifle Club. I undertake to you that I will discuss this with my fellow Trustees, but I think it would be helpful to know from you what you think the terms of reference for such an independent person should be.

Please confirm you have spoken to Mr Mustafa and he is willing to support such a proposal.

Kind regards,

**John Webster**  
Chairman

T: 01483 797777

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**From:** BRAZIER, Julian [mailto:julian.brazier.]  
**Sent:** 28 October 2016 09:51  
**To:** John Webster <[JWebster@altimapartners.com](mailto:JWebster@altimapartners.com)>  
**Cc:** HOWARTH, Gerald <Gerald.Howarth.MP>; LEWIS, Julian <LEWISJM>; GRAY, James <JamesGrayMP>; HOLLOWAY, Adam <HOLLOWAYA>; LORD, Jonathan <jonathan.lord.mp>; GARNIER, Mark <mark.garnier.mp>; CHERRY, Grant <cherrygb>  
**Subject:** Artists Clubhouse

Dear John,

Thank you for coming to see me on Monday. We were all grateful to you for giving up the time, but we are no closer to a solution.

We were all surprised that you and David Evans had not seen either of the two affidavits, from former officers of the NRA, setting out the background of assurances against which Moss Mustafa – and his co-investors – made their investment in the building.

Mr. Mercer chose to tell the meeting that a report suggested that ‘improvements’ in the building amounted to only £61,000, but we were astonished to subsequently discover that he had concealed from us the very much larger sum in ‘refurbishments’ which were detailed in the same report (together some £400,000). Although there is a technical distinction in the two terms this concealment was, at the very least, misleading.

I understand that Moss has heard nothing from you, either with regard to the rent or the even more onerous changes in leasehold arrangements which the NRA is trying to impose. The latter would brush aside the contractually special status the leaseholder has enjoyed since 1926. This, and the policy assurances in the two affidavits, formed the basis of the investment by Moss and his co-investors.

If Moss has heard nothing by close of play on Monday (31<sup>st</sup>), a number of us will write to the Charity Commissioners notifying them of our concerns and informing them that we are likely to seek an adjournment debate on the floor of the House of Commons. Sir Gerald Howarth, Dr Julian Lewis and James Gray have all said that they wish their names to be included in the letter. I expect you know them all from their visits to Bisley.

It was clear in the meeting that you make a considerable commitment to your voluntary duties as chairman of one of our great national charities. I hope that you will take action on this, in the best interests of the NRA,

Yours ever

Julian Brazier

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